Elevating Veterans’ Voices
2018

Creating public education opportunities for veterans to share their experiences in higher education

ANNUAL | After Action Report

Submitted by: Tyson Manker
December 31, 2018
Army Veteran Jonathan Ngowaki spoke on a Lumina Foundation panel about being defrauded by DeVry University, including the school taking out fraudulent loans without his consent.

Army Veteran Travis Craig visited Washington, DC to share his story of attending ITT Technical Institute, and having loans taken out in his name without his permission.
Capitol Hill Congressional Meetings
Monday, Feb. 12 – Washington, D.C.

Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA)
Social media HERE and HERE

Office of Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
Social media HERE

Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV)
Social media HERE

Education Department Hearing Testimony

Army Veteran Travis Craig testified at the Education Department about attending ITT Tech.
Social media HERE, HERE and HERE
VES hosted a panel of student veterans in the House Veterans Affairs Committee before a packed room of Congressional staff. VES Vice President Tanya Ang moderated the panel, eliciting the students’ stories of what is and is not working in higher education for military veterans. (HERE, HERE, HERE, and HERE)

Jamie Huebert, Navy, Kaplan
Omar Andrews, Marine Corps, U of Southern Maine
Wesley Hughes, Army, Georgetown
Rachael Milam, Air Force, NOVA Community College
Francheska Salazar, Army, Anne Arundel College

Social media HERE, HERE and HERE
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Social media HERE, HERE and HERE
Jamie Huebert told Sen. Kaine’s staff about being defrauded by Kaplan. (HERE)

Omar Andrews told Sen. Collins staff about his experiences as a student veteran. (HERE)
Senator Richard Burr (R-NC)  
Thursday, April 5 – Winston Salem

Senator Richard Burr met with 4 current and former North Carolina student veterans.

April McDonald, Army National Guard, U of Phoenix  
Social media HERE, HERE, HERE, HERE, and HERE

Jason Christian, Navy, American Intercontinental University

Charles Calamese, Army, Winston-Salem University

Roby Lovett, Navy, Forsythe Technical Community College

Nashville Film Festival  
Thursday, May 17 – Nashville

Marine Corps Veteran Will Walker told the audience about being defrauded by ITT Tech.

Social media HERE, HERE, HERE, HERE, HERE and HERE
Army Veterans **Milo Jones** (L) **John Andrew** (R) spoke with a reporter and told the audience about their bad experiences at ITT Technical Institute and U of Phoenix, respectively. (News media **HERE**)

Army Veteran **Andrea Carlton** shared her story of being defrauded by Brown Mackie college.
Army Veteran Andrea Carlton taped a video with “We The Action” and met with Rep. Ted Lieu’s staff.

Social media [HERE](#)

Office of Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA)
Tuesday, June 5 – Washington, D.C.

Social Media [HERE](#)
Capitol Hill Panel and Screening  
Tuesday, June 19 – Capitol Hill

VES co-hosted a screening of the “Fail State” documentary with Rep. Seth Moulton, where Marine Corps Veteran Zach Hastie, who is featured in the film, told Congressional staffers about being defrauded by ITT Technical Institute.

Social media HERE, HERE, HERE and HERE

Student Veterans Congressional Panel  
Thursday, June 12 – Capitol Hill

VES organized students’ voices at a House Veterans Affairs Committee panel with Chairman Rep. Phil Roe (R-TN) and Ranking Member Rep. Tim Walz (D-MN).

Tyronda Brown, Navy, American University  
Malia Fry, Gold-Star Wife, children using the Fry Scholarship  
Glenn Shephard, Army, ITT Technical Institute (when it closed)  
Rachael Mill, Air Force, Northern Virginia Community College

Social media HERE, HERE, HERE
Closed School Veteran Meetings
Thursday, July 12 – Capitol Hill, VA Dept

VES facilitated a meeting for Glenn Shephard with Rep. Sarbanes (D-MD), as well as VA reps to talk about having 8 months of his GI Bill benefits restored, after ITT Tech closed while he was enrolled.

Rep. Lou Correa (D-CA) District Meeting
Wednesday, August 29 – Santa Ana, CA

Rep. Lou Correa met with 4 current California student veterans.

Buddy Summit, USMC, Saddleback College
Aaron Edwards, USMC, Saddleback College
Rose Adon, Navy, Saddleback College
Terence Nelson, USMC, Saddleback College

Social media HERE and HERE
VES brought Colorado student veterans Jarrod Thoma and his wife Mindy to Washington, both of whom testified at the public hearing about protecting students and veterans.

Social media [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)

VES facilitated Congressional meetings for the Jarrod and Mindy Thoma (and their children)

Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO)
Social Media [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)

Office of Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO)
Social Media [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)

Office of Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO)
Social Media [HERE](#)

Office of Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO)
Social Media [HERE](#)
Education Dept. Proposed Rulemaking Hearing
Tuesday, Sept. 11 – New Orleans

VES brought Army Veteran Renee Seruntine, a former student veteran, to give testimony against
the rollback of student protections. (HERE)

Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA) District Meeting
Thursday, Sept. 20 – San Diego

Rep. Scott Peters met with 3 local student veterans and members of San Diego Veterans Legal Clinic.

Chris Cabrera, Navy, ITT Technical Institute (when it closed)
Steven Padilla, Army, National University
Eric Dean, Navy, National University
Bob Muth, USMC, USD Law Veterans Clinic
Social media HERE, HERE and HERE
VES brought Marine Corps Veteran Omar Andrews to NCAN 2018 in Pittsburgh to participate in a student panel and share his educational experiences.

Social media HERE, HERE, HERE, HERE and HERE

VES brought Army Veteran Tiffany Jones to share her experiences in higher education. HERE
U.S. Consumer Hearing
Friday, Oct. 19 – New Orleans

VES organized an opportunity for, and helped, the Louisiana Commander of The American Legion to confront US Consumer Financial Protection Bureau head Mick Mulvaney over his plan to cease investigations for Military Lending Act violations. Video HERE

“Navigating College Success for Military-Connected Students”
Friday, Oct. 19 – Sterling, VA

VES organized a public forum on student veterans, featuring Navy Veteran Michelle Tremblay, with help from Civic Nation and Young Invincibles at Northern Virginia Community College. HERE
VES brought defrauded USMC veteran Murray Hastie and his wife to the grand opening of “Fail State,” a documentary co-produced by Dan Rather about for-profit school abuses. HERE

Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA) District Meeting
Monday, Oct. 29 – Seattle

Rep. Adam Smith (ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee) met with 2 local student veterans who attended for-profit universities.

Dashawn Taylor, Army, University of Phoenix
Brandie Smith, Navy, National University

Social media HERE and HERE
Congressman Smith Retweeted VES Tweets after the meeting, HERE and HERE
VES co-organized and co-hosted a public forum on student veterans with Young Invincibles and Civic Nation at El Centro Community College in Dallas, TX. VES brought Marine Corps veteran Renee Monczynski and Gold-Star Wife Malia Fry to participate.

Student Success Panel | TICAS
Monday, Oct. 29 – Washington, D.C.

VES brought Andy Kmiecik, member of the Air National Guard, to Capitol Hill to participate in TICAS event, “Of Metrics and Markets: Measuring Post-College Employment Success” that included a discussion with Congressional staffers. (HERE)
Connecting Veterans with News Outlets

Bloomberg – Featuring VES Student Veteran Veteran
Monday, May 22 – Nationwide

Through VES, Army Veteran Jonathan Ngowaki spoke with Bloomberg about his unfortunate experience at DeVry University, and the fraudulent behavior he encountered. (HERE)

The Denver Post – VES Student Veteran Op-Ed
Monday, June 25 – Denver, CO

Through VES, Army Veteran Jarrod Thoma published an op-ed in the Denver Post about his time at DeVry University, the false promises he encountered, and hewing to the rules of non-lobbying education, why a proposed bill would hurt, not help, students in higher ed. (HERE)

The New York Times – Featuring VES Student Veteran Veteran
Monday, August 17 – Nationwide

Through VES, Army Veteran Stephanie Stiefel was featured in a New York Times op-ed about her time at the defunct for-profit school, International Academy of Design and Technology, in Tampa, the false promises she encountered, and the six-figure student loan debt she is now burdened with. (HERE)